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May 16, 2005

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: D.T.E. 04-113, Boston Edison Company – 2004 Reconciliation Filing

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

At midnight today, the Utility Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 369 went on strike against NSTAR, including Boston Edison Company ("Boston Edison" or the "Company"). In order to ensure that service to customers is maintained safely and reliably, non-union personnel have been redeployed to other assignments within NSTAR. As part of this effort, more than half of the staff normally assigned to regulatory and rates matters will not be available for the duration of the work stoppage. Accordingly, it will be necessary to prioritize regulatory activities to ensure that those matters that are time-sensitive or that have immediate impacts on customers will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. Those matters that can be delayed without permanent impacts should be given a lower priority.

Under the present schedule in the above-referenced proceeding, discovery is to conclude on June 3, 2005, the date for filing a settlement agreement is July 1, 2005 and evidentiary hearings are set for July 29, 2005. The resources needed to complete and file the remaining responses to information requests, conduct settlement negotiations and to prepare for hearings are not available because of the reassignment of key personnel.

Therefore, the Company requests that the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") suspend the procedural schedule in this proceeding. Because the issues in this case involve the reconciliation of costs and revenues in 2004, there is no permanent harm to customers by deferring consideration, since any adjustments ordered by the Department would be flowed through with carrying charges.


The Company cannot determine the length of the work stoppage and therefore requests that the procedural schedule be suspended until the strike ends. At that time, the

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Department could convene a procedural hearing (perhaps through a conference call) to establish a new schedule.

We have been authorized by the Attorney General to represent that he assents to this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Werlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent part.

Robert N. Werlin

cc: Shaela McNulty Collins, Hearing Officer  
Service List, D.T.E. 04-113